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THIRD COMMITTEE

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to the Chairman of the Third Committee

At its third meeting, on 6 October 1994, the Fifth Committee decided to invite the Second, Third and Fourth Committees to review the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/49/336), which had been submitted under agenda item 105, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

It may be recalled that, during their deliberations at the thirty-fourth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, most delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and his initial overall assessment of what had been achieved through the restructuring of the Secretariat, which indicated that restructuring appeared to be heading in the right direction. Some delegations, however, expressed concern about those actions already taken by the Secretary-General that did not have a mandate from Member States, namely, the transfer of the Electoral Assistance Division to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the decision of the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to assist him in enhancing policy coherence within the United Nations and overall coordination of operational activities for development. They consequently expressed the view that those issues should be considered by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. Some delegations, however, expressed the view that the actions already taken by the Secretary-General were within his prerogative as chief administrative officer of the Organization, under article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations.

According to its programme of work, the Fifth Committee is to begin its consideration of item 105 on Monday, 24 October.

I would, therefore, request you to draw the attention of the Third Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the Secretariat and arrange for the views of Member States in the Third Committee to be communicated to me not later than Monday, 31 October.

(Signed) Adrien TEIRLINCK
Chairman of the
Fifth Committee of the
General Assembly